

REMARKS

In the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, the Examiner has objected to the key limitation added by amendment to all main claims to define “enabling a display of a status of the other separately-executing program in the graphical display area of said browser” as not being supported in the patent specification as originally filed. The Examiner maintains that the specification only supports enabling a display of the status of the executed command, not the status of the other application program. As a result, the Examiner gave no substantive effect to this key limitation.

Since this key limitation was given no substantive effect, the Examiner has repeated the previous grounds of rejection under 35 USC 103 of the pending Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-63, and 79-88 as unpatentable over the Estabrook reference on Internet Explorer 4 and the W3C reference on Line Mode Browser Commands. Other prior art references are applied to indicate the obviousness of each of the dependent features.

The Examiner's position that the Specification does not support claiming the browser's display of the status of the other executing program appears to be incorrect. As noted in the original Specification, a distinguishing feature of the invention is that a command is entered in the URL command line 106 of a browser and used to control a separately-executing program on the same or another computer, and the results of the command results in a display of the status of the other separately-executing program in the graphical display area 108 of the browser. The Specification states as follows: “Alternatively or additionally, area 108 is used for displaying the effect of the command, for example a retrieved page or a page generated as a result of the command” (Page 10, Lines 20-21). The following highlighted sections from the Specification illustrate specific examples of displaying the results of a command entered in the URL field 106 of the browser and resulting in a display of status of the other executing program in the browser

display area 108:

Page 9, Lines 6-19:

"Alternatively to entering explicit commands, implicit commands may be entered. In one example a user enters a telephone number, so that the system will dial the number or send an e-mail to that person whose number it is. A particular type of implicit command is a form filling command. If a form is displayed on in area 108, a user may command the system to fill it in.

An example of an implicit command is to enter "address #1", which the system will interpret as filling out the address filed with a previously defined address, labeled as "address#1". A further implicit command is to enter "at home" in which case the system will fill in more than one field, using information associated with being "at home", for example telephone numbers and address fields. These associations may be defined as part of a virtual personality, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention. Another exemplary implicit command is to enter "the usual way" in which case the system will determine the usual values for the fields and fill them in. These commands could be prefixed with the key-word "fill-in" to make the command explicit. Alternatively or additionally, the WWW page itself can include an indication to a user that he can enter information using the URL line.

Page 12, Line 34, to Page 13, Line 5:

"Another example of a command in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention is entering a product name a service name or an indication thereof and having a page displayed to allow immediate purchasing of the product or various options and/or offers for purchasing the product. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, a user can pre-select preferred providers at which the system first looks for offers. Preferably, a confirmation of the order is shown in area 108 as a WWW page."

Page 14, Lines 11-24:

"In another example, a user can enter command and parameters for the commands. A

user can enter "find me a Sony TV costing between \$100 and \$200". The system can translate this command into a search in certain WWW sites. Alternatively, the system can transfer the command (with or without reformatting) to an automated WWW agent or site, to perform the search. The results are preferably displayed by the browser, so that a user need not be aware of the existence of the agent or site. Alternatively, the results are displayed by the agent or by the site. Other examples of such commands include "send an acknowledgment to Robert", which command is preferably translated based on the context (e. g., open WWW page, open e-mail, last few commands and/or an outstanding letter from Robert;"search for sites having to do with Alaska", which may be implemented by sending the natural language string, with a suitable format change directly to a search engine; "find an article titled bad boys that appeared in the New York Times last year, maybe on page A15", which is preferably executed by a dedicated search agent; and "buy Microsoft Stock at a limit or 1.5%", which is preferably transmitted to a stock broker."

Page 17, Lines 23-34:

"The above description has centered on WWW browsers, however, the scope of some embodiments of the invention also covers other types of software and especially software for remote interaction, for example e-mail software. In the example of e-mail software, a user can type a command (e. g., to the software, to other software, to a remote site) into the address field or into the subject field. These commands are not directed to the recipient of the e-mail, rather these commands are captured, either locally or at a mail server, and are used to affect the remote or a local interaction, as described above. Additionally, the scope of some embodiments of the invention extends to cover other software in which a command line and a graphical display area are available and a user uses the software as a single interface to a large plurality of other software packages, local and/or remote. In some such software, the command line may be implemented as a handwriting input field."

The Estabrook, W3C reference on Line Mode Browser Commands, the previously cited

"Smart Computing" reference, and other prior art cited by the Examiner suggest only using the browser Address Bar to run program applications in the Windows path directory or DOS commands. Presumably, once the program is launched, the user will be taken into the program application environment and will remain there until the user exits.

In contrast to the prior art, the present invention enables the user to enter a command in the URL or Address field to execute a function in an already running, separately executing program while remaining in the browser mode. In a preferred embodiment, a status display of the separately executing program is displayed in the browser display area 108, and the user can enter a command in the URL field of the browser which is analyzed and interpreted as a command to be executed in the already running program. The interaction of the user entering commands in the URL field with the browser display area 108 is explained in the original Specification (Page 9, last paragraph, through Page 10):

"In a first example of a command interacting with area 108, the displayed page can be used to display what the system understood the user's command to mean, ask for confirmation and/or explain the consequences of performing the command. ...

"In another example, the area 108 may be used to allow a user to modify and/or add details to the command entered by him. The "page" shown in this area may be generated responsive to the command. Alternatively or additionally, a previously displayed page may be used for defining a modification to a command, even before the command is executed. In one exemplary embodiment, a command can be modified by selecting a portion of area 108 to be used in interpreting the command. For example, a "buy this" command can be modified by a selection on area 108 of the object to be bought. ...

"Alternatively or additionally, area 108 is used to provide feedback on the results of the command (e. g., "file copied successfully") or on the progress of the command (e. g., "20 files of 405 files transferred"). ...

"Alternatively or additionally, area 108 is used for displaying the effect of the command, for example a retrieved page or a page generated as a result of the command. Alternatively or additionally, combinations or the above display types may be generated, for example being overlaid or being displayed side-by-side, in separate windows, or as banners. ...

Main Claims 1, 6, 47, 56, and 85 are further amended herein to clarify that the invention method enables a display of a status of the other separately-executing program in the browser

interface while the user continues to employ said browser interface. This is further emphasized by switching the order of the second subparagraph to be the last subparagraph to define the status-display-enabling step as the result of the prior steps, and to explicitly state that the browser display of the status of the other program occurs while the user continues to employ the browser interface. The amendments are now deemed to clearly define the patentable distinction over the cited prior art which only teaches entering a command in the Address Bar to run a program in the Windows path directory, and then remaining in the program application environment (not the browser mode) until the user exits.

The other depending claims continue to depend from the main Claims 1, 6, 47, 56 and 85, respectively, and are deemed to be patentable for the same reason presented above.

In summary, the Application and Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-36, 38-63, and 79-88 are now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and it is requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued upon reconsideration.